RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

JANUARY, 1877.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS: THE FIRST IN LONDON.

"Had there been such a school as this when I was a boy, I had not been a thief."

Our frontispiece gives the interior of what was originally a skittle shed to a thieves' public-house in Westminster, but by the Committee of the Ragged School Union transformed into a School of Industry. This illustration is taken from a chromo-litho copy of a painting by Alex. Blaikley, printed in colours by Leighton Brothers, and dedicated by permission to the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury by the artist and publisher. The footnote to the print reads thus:—

"This picture represents the 'Refuge' in Old Pye Street. Boys making shoes form the centre group. To the right a lad watches the operations of the master shoemaker, near whom the boys seated on the board are making clothes. Behind the master tailor, in the background, some unruly urchins disturb the public peace, which attracts the attention of the head master, who is admonishing the new scholars. At the door stands a boy lately sent to Australia, speaking to an applicant for admission. A poor woman is endeavouring to comfort a little orphan, afraid of being left in so strange a place. A boy nearly blind (a portrait), a conspicuous figure in the foreground, enjoys the company, although he cannot work. The girl to the right is acting a sister's part to a little boy. The other girls are introduced to show they are not neglected. Patrons of the Institution and visitors make up the background."

Of the group of patrons in the background, Lord Ashley, M.P. (the present Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.), is the foremost figure (No. 1); on the left, looking to the wall, is the late Rev. John Branch (No. 5), of the London City Mission; to the right, in the act of speaking to his lordship, is William Locke, Esq. (No. 2),

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

who for about twenty years was the Hon. Secretary to the Ragged School Union; still farther to the right, with hat in hand, stands that revered friend of Ragged Schools and the Temperance cause, the late Joseph Payne, Esq. (No. 3), Deputy Assistant-Judge of the Middlesex Sessions; and between Mr. Locke and Mr. Payne stands Mr. Joseph G. Gent (No. 4), who was the Secretary to this Industrial School, and for more than thirty years has been the Secretary to the Ragged School Union.

It is now full thirty years ago since this Day Industrial School was commenced at 56, Old Pye Street, Westminster, a building that then stood in the centre of a locality oft designated "the Devil's Acre," and through which it was scarcely safe for a stranger to pass, and even the police took the wise precaution of perambulating it in couples. The inhabitants were of a very nondescript character; tramps, beggars, cadgers, crossing-sweepers, here largely mixed up with thieves, burglars, and prostitutes. Common lodging houses of the lowest type abounded. The proceeds of many a burglary were here transformed, and readily changed hands amongst such a community. Through one of the windows of the schoolroom, near where Mr. Branch is standing in our illustration, came in one day the handle of a silver spoon with a crest, chopped roughly from its bowl. It seemed clear that the preliminary had been going on in the adjoining house or yard of reducing the article to a size suitable for the crucible to destroy all trace of ownership. Such were the people, and such was the locality where this initial experiment in London was to be tried. And the taking of the thieves' public-house, in the very centre of the district, was indeed "bearding the lion in his den."

A very graphic description of a visit to this school was given by the late Rev. Dr. Thomas Guthrie. He said:—"Lord Ashley took me to one of the Ragged Schools in London. It was situated in Westminster, and had a remarkable history. Some time before it was turned to its present purpose, this building had been used as a tavern. It was the favourite rendezvous of the thieves of that district. There they met to plan, and from thence they issued forth to execute, their deeds of crime. Even then they had a *sort* of Sabbath school in it, but what a school! The room was filled with the ruffians and robbers of the neighbourhood. At one end the younger thieves—those who were in training—pursued the art of pocket-picking. If the lesson was not well performed, the

bungler was apprehended and dragged by a sham policeman to the other end of the room. There, in caricature of a court of justice, sat a presiding ruffian, dressed out in wig and gown, the garb of a judge, by whom, amid all the formalities of the law, the culprit was tried. In the course of this mock assize he was taught how to fence and evade—when to be silent and how to speak—so as to prepare him for the time when this farce should pass into a dreadful tragedy. Beneath that very roof, where unhappy outcasts had been trained in wickedness and sin, we found a Ragged School in admirable order, filled with the very objects of such a charity. Among others, we remember two. A boy was pointed out to us whose bed, during winter, had been the hollow of the iron roller in one of the parks. The other had been brought to the school by one of the most notorious thieves in the neighbourhood, who implored them to receive the child as the only means of saving him from ruin; adding, when his strange request was granted, and he looked round on the scene, these touching words: 'HAD THERE BEEN SUCH A SCHOOL AS THIS WHEN I WAS A BOY, I HAD NOT BEEN A THIEF.'"

The rules of this first Day Industrial School in London were adopted in February, 1847, the third of which was:—"That the *means* used be the giving to the children of the poor (who cannot or will not pay for a school) without any charge, a sound, moral, and religious education, based upon the simple truths of the Bible; the teaching them some useful trade or occupation suited to the capacity or taste of the boys; the providing in some degree for their physical comfort in regard to food, and in some few extreme cases, as to occasional nightly shelter."

The need for this nightly shelter became more and more apparent, for some of the boys cared for during the day had no home to go to at night, and therefore resorted for their dormitories to the Dark Arches in the Strand, to the baskets in Covent Garden, the shambles of the Meat Market, and, as Dr. Guthrie stated, to the great iron roller in the Regent's Park, and to other similar places. To meet this need the first Day Industrial School in London had its principal room fitted up with hammocks to be put up for night and taken down for day.

The premises in Westminster were originally intended to educate and train fifty boys only, but within six months from the establishment of the Refuge, fifty girls were also admitted; and soon after

thirty additional boys, so that there were in the Institution 130 children.

One great object in these schools was to have work for every child, and to keep each child constantly, usefully, and cheerfully employed. Four hours in the morning, and two in the evening, were occupied by the educational classes; and three hours in the afternoon by the industrial. The day's routine has been thus described:—"The children are assembled by nine o'clock in the morning to sing God's praise, hear a portion of Holy Scripture read, and unite in thanksgiving and prayer. The girls then leave for their own schoolroom. The boys, at the sound of the master's call, form into classes, and, at the word of command, strip, run into the bathing-house, plunge into the bath in succession, and in thirty minutes all are dressed and in their places for school exercises. They commence with reading and spelling-lessons, then writing, afterwards arithmetic, and close the forenoon's occupations by a religious catechetical lesson, and singing. For one hour they walk out to St. James's Park, and return to dinner. From two till five o'clock they are engaged at their respective trades, under masters. At five, they receive a portion of bread, and again resume their educational course till eight o'clock, when with prayer and praise they are dismissed to their homes."

Fifteen of the boys were homeless; for these a lodging was provided on the premises. As a return for this, they did the domestic work of the house, between the hours of six and eight in the morning, under the direction of the housekeeper, who reported "that the work assigned to each was done with the greatest cheerfulness." The schoolmaster, from his general observation of traits of character and talent displayed, says that "they will excel in the workshop rather than in the schoolroom, although, with one or two exceptions, he could not complain of any want of intellectual capacity."

The cost, compared with the benefit to the child, and the saving to society, was a mere bagatelle, ranging from £6 10s. to £7 per year for a child.

Industry was an important element in the training, and though the work done was far from having "a high finish," or the material used by any means costly, yet the work was useful. During the year the tailors made 28 jackets and 65 pairs of trousers. They also repaired 465 jackets, and 1,500 pairs of trousers. The less

experienced lads practised on pieces, and finished 2,318 specimens of work. 30 boys in the shoemaking department made 50 pairs of shoes, and repaired 360 pairs. The younger ones completed 1,920 specimens of work. These articles of clothing were not made up and sent into the market, there to compete with the working-man's produce, tending thereby to reduce the price of his labour, but were bestowed upon the shoeless and almost naked orphan, or otherwise destitute child, as a reward for his industry, care, and perseverance in their manufacture.

It was also intended to add workrooms for printing, bookbinding, turnery, carpentry, and basket-making, so that the capabilities and ingenuity of the boys might be more completely developed. For the girls it was more than desirable that there should be a laundry, a kitchen, and a general workroom provided, in order that their training might be the more complete for an easy and correct discharge of the duties of domestic servants. It was more the anxious object of the Committee to elevate the poor girls to the station of servants, remarkable for their tidiness, docility, and industry, than to make scholars of them. Nor were the Committee indifferent to a far higher end—the training of these poor children in the fear of the Lord; on the contrary, they regarded their work as but half done if they should not lead them to the practice of "that godliness which is profitable for all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

The Committee, when reporting on the results of their labours, modestly said:—"In the use made of the funds entrusted to them, they were anxious to avoid anything like boasting of the success that attended their efforts, or taking credit for more than facts substantiate. They therefore say little of the improvement manifest in the children of their care since their admission, but simply refer to the report and opinions of others in regard to the school. Any one who saw the boys and girls when first taken from the streets, and looks at them now, must confess that they are hardly like the same beings: the ragged have become clothed; the filthy, clean; the ignorant, instructed; the idle, industrious; the careless, diligent; and the vicious reformed."

Again:—

"They do not wish to claim undue merit for their plans and labour, nor to gather laurels that justly belong to other labourers

in the same field of philanthropy; but they cannot help observing that, from some cause or other, beershop keepers drive a less flourishing trade than formerly, and publicans are compelled, in more cases than one, to shut up their houses. One of these houses is already taken, and converted into reading and lecture rooms for working-men, and infant schools for their children."

We have spoken of the Westminster School as the first Day Industrial School in London, but it was not the first in the field. This honour belongs to the one started by Sheriff Watson in Aberdeen. The commencement of that school is thus described:—

"A few individuals met one morning in October, 1841, in the upper room of an old tenement in a narrow street in Aberdeen. The lower floor was used as a blacksmith's shop, and the smoke from the forge having found its way into the place of meeting, hung like a dense cloud at one end of it, giving it a dark and gloomy aspect. Two or three school desks and forms, covered with dust, were the only articles of furniture, and a quantity of old iron lay in a corner. The party consisted of a clergyman, a country gentleman, one or two private citizens, and a local magistrate; it was easy to see that all had an earnest, anxious look, as if doubtful of the success of the object about which they had assembled. It was to establish an Industrial School for the destitute; and when the amount of juvenile destitution, and the means at their disposal for removing it, are considered, it is not to be wondered at that their undertaking was by some deemed wild and impracticable.

"Previous inquiry had shown that upwards of 280 children subsisted in Aberdeen solely by mendicancy, and were known to the police as having no other means of living than by begging and stealing."

Other schools of a similar kind were opened, and in six years the 280 juvenile mendicants disappeared, and in their place were found 300 scholars in these schools in training to become self-supporters by honest and respectable self-effort. Another great result was the reduction of juvenile delinquency. In 1843 there were 53 children committed to prison; in 1844 there were 46; in 1845 the number increased to 49, but in 1846 reduced to 28; in 1847 to 27, and in 1848 to 19. Without Acts of Parliament, without School Boards, loving hearts and earnest souls worked

out these great results and set this great example, and at a cost that was marvellous for its economy.

The School in Westminster was almost within a stone's throw of the famous Abbey, and within gunshot of the Houses of Parliament, although in the midst of the foul and reeking "Devil's Acre." No wonder that a stout determination was made to remodel the locality by piercing it for the new broad thoroughfare of Victoria Street, and the erection of "mansions" and model buildings. The school, however, did carry on its work for several years, and till the building was required for these local improvements. The success was such in this tentative effort as to justify its extension, with modifications, to other parts of the metropolis. In this way arose the Refuge system. The Ragged School Union, instead of supporting one institution, fostered the formation of many, and gave a capitation grant towards the support of the inmates admitted to them. So important and numerous did these institutions become, that a new Central Society was formed to cater for their welfare.

CONFERENCES ON NIGHT SCHOOLS.

The Conferences held for the past two years having been found productive of benefit, their repetition this year was held to be desirable.

To bring together those of no experience with others of a little and many of a ripe experience on this particular subject must be of advantage.

Besides, in these times, when so many institutions are in the arena, each pressing its claims, viz.:—Bands of Hope, Singing Classes, Youths' Institutes, &c., it is the duty of all those who feel an interest in providing the advancing generation (those beyond School Board provisions) with the tools of knowledge—reading, writing, and arithmetic—to awaken interest, to afford information, and, if possible, to provoke enthusiasm on a matter which is not second, but of equal, if not of greater importance than its younger, and to some its more fascinating rivals.

The Conferences this year were held on October 11th, 16th, and 18th.

Some of the delegates came from Gravesend, Hertford, Clapham,

Stoke Newington, Bermondsey, Mile End, Stepney, Walworth, and Snowsfields. Captain Moreton, of Mildmay Park, gave an interesting account of the night operations conducted in London and its suburbs, among youths of both sexes, and adults, principally by ladies, the discipline of which institutions is admirable. Mr. Montague, of King Edward Street, said that, not being satisfied with the attendance at the Night School of last year, which was conducted by a paid master, he and his friends this year intended conducting it exclusively with voluntary teachers. And to further this object two Tea Meetings were held, one of teachers and friends to obtain teachers, which was a success, and one of parents from whom to obtain pupils, which also was a success.

Mr. Ralph, of Poplar, said that last year their school was interfered with by a certain religious body, and their numbers considerably reduced by such interference; but, nothing daunted, they this year renewed their effort, providing also for girls as well as boys, and their courage and enterprise had been rewarded with a large attendance.

The liberal offer of the Ragged School Union to pay two-thirds of the salary of a master or mistress, and two-thirds of the cost of a door-keeper where found necessary, was acknowledged by those present to be a most handsome proposal, and one that ought to stimulate their efforts. Some were in favour of a small charge, not as a school fee, but as a guarantee for regular attendance and orderly behaviour, such money to be returned in prizes at the end of the session. Mr. Farmer, of Marigold Place, Bermondsey, said that his school consisted of an elder class of rough boys, who paid a penny each night, till the tenth night was reached; during the second ten each boy received nightly his penny back, and so on in a recurring series. The money unclaimed constituted a fund which was devoted to a tea or prizes at the end of the session. This plan was not adopted in the Girls' Night School, through their want of means. On the boys' side it was not allowed to operate as an exclusion where poverty prevented such payment.

As a good accruing from these Conferences, friends have been encouraged to open Night Schools, and others to continue and redouble their efforts.

NIGHT SCHOOLS.

Revision of Resolutions for making Grants.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union at their meeting last month revised their resolutions for voting grants to Night Schools. They are now as follows:—

1. That in the opinion of the Committee a great necessity is shown to exist for Night Schools for the instruction of children and young persons of the destitute and rough classes of the Metropolis in the usual course of reading, writing, and arithmetic, in connection with religious teaching; so that scholars may be taught to read the Bible for themselves, and be fitted to take responsible situations, for which a competent knowledge of reading, writing, and figures is essential.
2. That such schools will afford abundant scope in the future for the labours of this Society, which, in the opinion of the Committee, is the only body now in existence attempting or competent to deal with the question.
3. That in the opinion of the Committee the maintenance of existing, and the establishment of additional, Night Schools in the Metropolis for the instruction of children and young persons of the above-mentioned classes in reading, writing, and arithmetic, in connection with religious teaching, and in addition to Sunday Schools, should be the special work of the Ragged School Union in the future.
4. That the attention of the Agents of the Society should in future be specially directed to the aiding of such schools where already existing, and the promoting of new schools in districts where they are needed.
5. That the Managers of Night Schools be recommended to pay salaries to teachers conducting such schools at the following rates—viz., £10 to Masters per annum for each night in the week employed, and £8 to Mistresses per annum for each night in the week employed; and that the Committee, in addition to any special grants which the circumstances of each case may render expedient, do pay two-thirds of such salaries. But subject to the conditions that no Night School shall be entitled to any aid from this Society towards the salaries of a Master or Mistress which is not open at least one and a half hours per night, and has not an average attendance of at least

twenty scholars, or which in the judgment of the School Agents is not in other respects efficiently conducted.

6. That the Managers of Night Schools be recommended to employ and to pay 1s. per night to a Doorkeeper in every case in which, in the opinion of the School Agents, his services are necessary to secure order outside the school, and that the Committee do pay two-thirds of such payments.

7. That where, in the opinion of the Agents of the Society, a Night School is efficiently conducted by Voluntary Teachers without the aid of a Master or Mistress, the Committee, in addition to any special grant which the circumstances of each case may render expedient, and the aid to be given towards a Doorkeeper, as mentioned in the last Resolution, do make an annual grant in aid of the yearly expenditure of such school not exceeding one half of a Master's salary at the rate mentioned in the 5th Resolution, but every grant shall be subject to the conditions mentioned in the same Resolution.

8. That the reception of a small fee from scholars shall not preclude a Night School from assistance from this Society should the Committee see special circumstances therein; but that the Committee shall have power to make special and annual grants, or either of them, to any such school, provided, upon consideration of all the circumstances, they are satisfied that the school is satisfactorily performing the work of instruction of children and young persons of the above-mentioned classes in secular and religious knowledge as above prescribed.

9. That no annual grants shall be made to any school which does not provide education for boys and girls in reading, writing, and arithmetic at least two nights in the week.

10. With a view to the schools being properly inspected by the School Agents while they are in actual operation, and as a condition of any grant being made under Resolutions numbered 5 to 8, both inclusive, the managers of Night Schools desiring aid from this Society shall give notice in writing to the Secretary of this Society within one month after the schools are opened for the reception of scholars.

11. All grants made under any of the foregoing sections shall be made and be renewable from time to time only at the option of the Managing Committee.

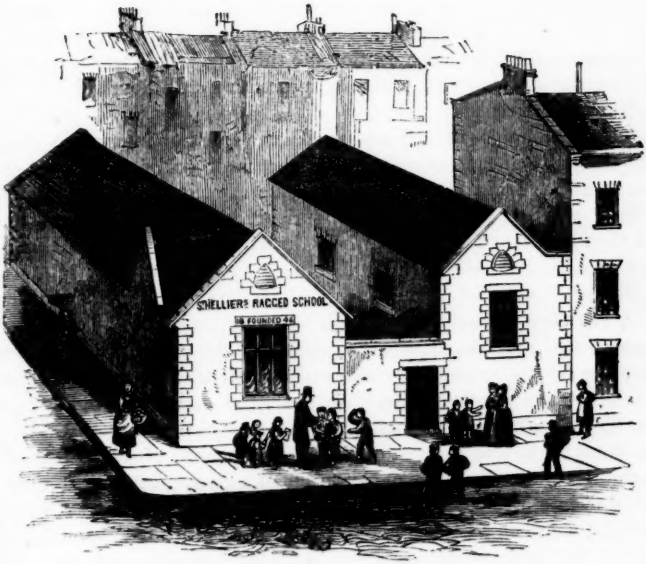
12. All Night Schools are required to keep registers of attendance of scholars.

NIGHT RAGGED SCHOOLS AT WORK.

THE following schools are now fully at work, showing the sexes and the numbers in attendance:—

School.	Boys.	Girls.	Mixed.	Total.
Bacon Street	56	50	—	106
Beaumont Place...	20	—	—	20
Brewer's Court	22	23	—	45
Britannia Row	52	23	—	75
Britannia Street...	20	10	—	30
Broad Street	18	20	—	38
Bromley-by-Bow	—	—	90	90
Brownlow Street	40	—	—	40
Brunswick Street	30	—	—	30
Buck's Row	—	16	—	16
Buross Street	—	—	59	59
Carr Street...	—	—	30	30
Camden Town	15	—	—	15
Canning Town	—	12	—	12
Castle Street	60	—	—	60
Chatham Gardens, Hoxton	80	—	—	80
Chapel Street, Somers Town	—	—	25	25
Charles Square, Hoxton	—	35	—	35
Chequer Alley	30	35	—	65
Chicksand Street	25	—	—	25
Clapham	—	—	40	40
Clement Lane	25	20	—	45
Colchester Street	—	12	—	12
Cranbrook Street	—	21	—	21
Clerkenwell Close	35	28	—	63
Darby Street	—	—	30	30
Deptford	25	15	—	40
Devonshire Street	—	—	49	49
Dove Row	30	40	—	70
East Greenwich...	20	—	—	20
Ernest Street, Notting Hill	18	—	—	18
Ernest Street, Stepney	—	—	40	40
Exeter Buildings	23	—	—	23
Field Lane	—	—	—	—
Fox Court	25	50	—	75
George Yard	35	40	—	75
Golden Lane	—	—	22	22
Glo'ster Court	—	—	—	—
Gray's Yard	—	—	15	15
Grotto Passage	—	—	20	20
Horseferry Road	21	15	—	36
Hope Place...	25	25	—	50
Hope Street, Spitalfields	23	26	—	49
Ingram Place, Holloway	—	—	36	36
John Street, Edgware Road	50	—	—	50
John Street, Homerton	—	—	60	60

School.	Boys.	Girls.	Mixed.	Total.
John Street, Shacklewell	—	—	35	35
John's Place	13	20	—	33
Jurston Street	23	20	—	43
Kentish Town	60	45	—	105
King's Cross Road	60	30	—	90
King Edward Street	—	—	70	70
King's Road, Hoxton	—	14	—	14
Little Coram Street	20	28	—	48
London Street, Bethnal Green	—	—	60	60
Mansfield Street...	—	20	—	20
Marigold Place	—	—	50	50
Mildmay Avenue	18	—	—	18
Milton's Yard	35	20	—	55
Morton Road	—	—	54	54
Motley Street	30	—	—	30
New Church Street, Bermondsey	—	30	—	30
Newport Street	—	20	—	20
New Tothill Street	24	21	—	45
Nichol Street	—	—	295	295
Ogle Mews	20	15	—	35
Old Castle Street	—	—	25	25
Old Ford	—	30	—	30
Park Walk	19	12	—	31
Perkins's Rents	20	20	—	40
Price's Street	37	49	—	86
Portobello Road...	20	16	—	36
Poplar (East India Road)...	—	—	70	70
Ratcliff Square	—	35	—	35
Rufford's Buildings	28	31	—	59
Salamanca, Lambeth...	20	20	—	40
Sander Street	—	—	40	40
Snowsfields...	20	—	—	20
Spicer Street	30	25	—	55
St. James's Place	15	—	—	15
St. Peter's Street, Hackney	—	40	—	40
Stratford	20	8	—	28
Stoke Newington	40	25	—	65
Tottenham Square	—	—	100	100
Townsend Street	—	—	38	38
Thrawl Street	—	—	30	30
Vincent Street	—	—	30	30
Walker Street	15	—	—	15
Waterloo Road	30	—	—	30
Webber Row	25	24	—	49
Well Street, Hackney	—	—	34	34
Wentworth Street	35	25	—	60
West Greenwich	25	—	—	25
York Mews...	—	—	40	40
York Place...	—	12	—	12
COUNTRY.				
Brentford	—	—	50	50
Dartford	—	—	57	57
Gravesend	18	18	—	36
Watford	23	31	—	54



RAGGED SCHOOL WORK IN JERSEY.

BY THE REV. J. W. BROWN, M.A.

READER, have you ever visited Jersey? It is the southernmost of the Cyclades of the Channel, the others stretching away in an irregular line from north-west to north-east of where it stands on its rocky base, the crown of the whole. Beautiful for situation, and sloping towards the sunny south, it has a genial climate, possesses many elements of attractiveness, and ought to be much more frequented than it is.

In a political sense, these Channel Islands are the oldest portion of the British empire, since at the date of the Norman conquest they formed part of the ducal province of Normandy, from which William went forth to the invasion of England. The continental dominions of the Conqueror have long since passed from our hands, but the insular portion remains, and it is a pleasantry sometimes indulged in to remark that in the eleventh century Jersey annexed England. It is a singular phenomenon, that, after the lapse of eight centuries, during which the most ancient ideas have been exploded, and the most venerable institutions removed, these little communities should remain

much as they were at the first. You can fancy that in the peasantry of secluded country districts the old Norman blood still flows. Certainly the language has undergone no material change, and the ancient laws and style of administration continue to this day. It is very curious to find former customs and modes of procedure still flourishing in all their pristine strength.

One might suppose that long ere this the spirit of innovation would have brought about assimilation in the most outlying parts of the home empire. But no! *Les Gerriais* proper are tremendously tenacious of their political constitution and jurisprudence and social customs, and the day seems far distant when the islands will form an English county and be placed under English law.

Jersey is founded upon a rock. The floor on which the island rests, or rather the substance of which it may be said to be composed, is a series of metamorphic rocks, mainly of the character of syenite. Thus the coast is more or less rocky all round, and the numerous bays or inlets, taken in connection with the rural scenery of the interior, furnish a remarkable combination of the lovely and the grand. With the one exception of the waterfall or river torrent, of which Jersey is all but destitute, there are here aspects of external nature sufficiently varied to interest and delight. You stand on a rocky point of the northern shore on a bright summer day. Yonder are Guernsey, Herm, Jethou, and Sark, stretching along the horizon on the north-west. Between are the blue waters of the Channel, leaping and glancing in the sun, or breaking over the jagged rocks that girdle the coast. At your feet is a lovely miniature bay, with its little strip of pebbly beach, and hemmed in on each side by precipitous cliffs, which are of an endless variety of shape, and terminate in singular detached masses, standing out a little way in the sea like sentinels on guard. Or you drive through one of the valleys, and then your sense of the beautiful is gratified in a different way. Now you pass a farmhouse or manor-house with its pretty flower-garden; or you enter a lane, and are charmed with the vista which the overarching trees afford; or you get a peep of some distant landscape. The scenery is said to resemble that of Devonshire in no ordinary degree, but certainly your love of the picturesque may be gratified to the full, and I wonder that the artist is not more frequently found among the cliffs, or in the dells and lanes of this sea-girt spot.

But what of its moral condition? We cannot speak very favourably about this. The society of Jersey is marked by gaiety and *abandon*, and it is said that some are "received" whose antecedents or manner of life will not bear to be closely criticised.

The cheapness of spirituous liquors, too, has contributed seriously

to the demoralisation of the lower classes, and of the soldiers of the garrison. In fact, all the vices of larger communities are to be found here. Yet it is matter of thankfulness that appliances for meeting and overcoming evil also exist. The Hospital and Workhouse, Lunatic Asylum, Dispensary, Penitentiary, Dorcas Societies, Strangers' and Benevolent Friends' Society, Female Orphan Home, Boys' Industrial Schools, and Ragged Schools—these institutions, more or less vigorously supported, attest the benevolence and Christian zeal of the better-conditioned portion of the public.

Of one of these—the St. Helier's—Ragged Schools I propose now to speak. Its history is not devoid of interest. Just thirty years ago the hearts of some Christian people were drawn out to the waifs and strays of the town, and the first attempt to do them good took the direction of establishing a Sunday School in the neighbourhood where such children were mostly to be found. This continued for about ten years, during which time some good results were achieved under the blessing of God. It was felt, however, that as impressions made on the Lord's day were in many cases obliterated by bad example at home, and the other evil influences which the surroundings of the children involved, it would be necessary to do something more effectual. Hence the Ragged School as it is now—a Day School, with free education for the children of the degraded and the very poor, and with a measure of industrial instruction for the girls. The young people who present themselves for admission are received only after evidence has been obtained that their education cannot be otherwise provided for. They are not regularly fed or clothed, although at Christmas articles of dress are distributed among them, and during winter a system of dinner-giving is carried out on a limited scale. The present teacher (Mr. J. G. Bird) is very efficient, and enjoys the full confidence of those in charge.

Up to this time the work of the school has been carried on in rooms rented for the purpose. Circumstances have repeatedly occurred to necessitate a change of abode, but now at last the institution possesses a home of its own. The commodious if not very elegant building represented in the woodcut prefixed to this paper, and situated at the corner of Philip Street and Museum Street, stands a monument of the zeal and energy of a few faithful friends. From the nature of the ground it could not be photographed on the spot, and the view here given is an altered "elevation" of the architect; but, however bald its exterior aspect, the structure is very well adjusted for the work in hand. The window to the left is that of the principal schoolroom, and on the right is the master's house. The playground, with suitable appurtenances, occupies the space in the centre. The

new Ragged School was formally opened on the 6th of October last with a religious service, in which the children took part. Imrie Bell, Esq., C.E., presided, and one of those who addressed the meeting was John Hammond, Esq., the chief magistrate of the island. Among all present was a prevalent feeling of gratitude for what had been achieved, as well as of determination to go hopefully forward.

The promoters of this work venture to look beyond the island itself for aid in the attempt to pay off, as speedily as possible, the debt of £450 which remains on the building. *Will each reader of this Magazine kindly help?* We have arguments enough on behalf of such an appeal. Not only have the Christian people of Jersey hitherto supported their own benevolent institutions of every sort, but they annually contribute to the funds of the many English societies, charitable and religious, whose deputies severally appear in the island once a year or thereby to plead their cause. All this money is ungrudgingly given; but surely it is not too much to expect a *quid pro quo* in the shape of pecuniary help from the other side of the Channel to island objects such as this.

Take the following facts from the recent history of the St. Helier's Ragged School. The number of children who passed through the school during the last eight years, from August, 1868, to August, 1876, is 629. Of these, 282 went to domestic service, or to work in some trade; 204 passed into higher schools; 39 received assistance to emigrate to Canada or New Zealand; 2 were sent home to relatives in England; while 102 were withdrawn from the school. This is a not unfavourable report of eight years' work. During the same period the children received 11,504 dinners, 3,968 articles of clothing, and 427 Bibles or other books. It may be noted, in regard to those who pass to "higher schools," that they had been thrown on the Ragged School through the intemperance of their parents; but those parents, on being reformed, were willing, or rather preferred to *pay* for the education of their children. Surely it is not possible to overrate the value of the wholesome training which those children are receiving, or the importance to society of such work being maintained. The results actually achieved, as may be gathered from the annals of the rescued, are a loud call to hold on in this course of benevolent enterprise with greater efficiency and power. It is entirely in the line of the Lord's will, and commands His approving smile.

Let me add a word as to the catholicity of the management of this school. Another institution of the same sort, an offshoot from this, is, we believe, doing good service, but it is of a denominational character, being carried on exclusively in connection with the Church of England. The basis of the St. Helier's Ragged School is broad,

and simply Christian. Her Majesty's Attorney-General, R. P. Marett, Esq., is president, and on the list of the committee are the names of clergymen of the Established Church, as well as of ministers and members of the various Nonconformist churches of the town. The treasurer, W. C. Gray, Esq., Commercial Bank, Jersey, or Mr. J. G. Gent, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand, who visited the island in July last, and is cognisant of all the facts of the case, will be happy to receive contributions in aid of the Building Fund. It may be that some who read these lines have pleasing remembrances of a visit to Jersey. If so, let them hasten to help. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

WORKING LADS' INSTITUTES.

BY MRS. BARKER HARRISON.

We cannot fail to notice, as one of the cheering "signs of the times," the gradual drawing together of the various classes of society by the best of all bands—that of sympathy. Formerly, even twenty or thirty years ago, a great gulf seemed to separate the upper from the lower classes, the employer from the employed. Whether in the field or the factory the millions toiled on as mere human machines, to be cast aside when disabled by accident or disease, to sink uncared for into an untimely grave. Here and there a few philanthropists—grieved to the heart at the miserable state of these immortal souls, victims of vice and crime, living without God in the world, dying without hope—sought to draw attention to the claims of these fellow-creatures, as God had made "of one blood all nations of men," but their efforts were looked upon as those of enthusiasts, and their words as idle tales. Now, how great is the contrast! Let any effort be brought forward having for its aim the improvement and well-being of the working and industrial classes, and at once friends and money are forthcoming, and the press lends its powerful aid.

There is no doubt but that the Ragged School movement acted as the pioneer to introduce light and life into these moral wastes. Many Christian workers toiled on quietly, silently for years, under the fostering care of that friend of all good works, the Earl of Shaftesbury, until about twenty years ago, when they were able to produce astonishing results and fruit of their labours, in the number of young people* who had been rescued from utter neglect, ignorance and degradation, and made respectable members of society.

It is curious to note also that some of the most popular efforts of

* The Earl of Shaftesbury stated recently that the number of young persons so rescued by means of Ragged Schools exceeded 200,000. What a host for good or for evil!

the day have had their commencements in connection with Ragged Schools.

Thus the first Working Men's Club in London was opened in 1860 in Duck Lane, Westminster, and was enlarged three times in as many years, and it was the success of this primitive effort that encouraged Mr. Solly to originate that now important society, "The Working Men's Club and Institute Union," the secretary of the Duck Lane Club, an intelligent though uneducated costermonger, being placed on the Council, and having the honour of explaining to the then president, the late Lord Brougham, in what his lordship termed a most practical speech, the aims of these institutions. The Duck Lane Club has recently been pulled down for metropolitan improvements, but the movement itself is firmly established throughout the country. The present promoters have departed from the original temperance rules, and modern Working Men's Clubs have billiards, bagatelle, and "*a bar*," which is open at all hours and all times. Whether *this* is a movement in the right direction is open to much doubt, when we read the statistics of the increasing intemperance and consequent acts of violence in this country.

Quite recently, the formation of *Institutes for Working Lads* was warmly advocated at an influential meeting in the city. The plan has already been tried, and with complete success, as a Working Lads' Institute was opened in Old Pye Street, Westminster, in 1874, under the same auspices as the Duck Lane Club. The third anniversary was held Dec. 12th, 1876, under the genial presidency of Alderman Sir R. W. Carden. The position of working lads between the ages of fourteen and eighteen is a very peculiar one; too old, as they consider, for Night Schools, too young to be received into Working Men's Clubs, and not usually welcome at home until nearly ten o'clock, they have no alternative after work but to loiter about the streets and be tempted to gamble, or to go to public-houses or to cheap theatres or music-halls. A large, comfortable room (used in the day as a Boy's Ragged School) was therefore opened from 6.30 to 9.45 every evening, which, by a judicious combination of instruction and recreation, has been very popular with the working lads, *a hundred and seventy-six boys**

* Their occupations are those of painter and glazier, bookseller's boy, engineer, ironfounder, errand boy, pianoforte pin maker, reading boy, porter, printer's boy, compositor, bricklayer, bookbinder, wood carver, shop boy, messenger, cooper, junior clerk, warehouse boy, cabinet maker, van boy, packer, French polisher, ginger beer maker, billiard table maker, plumber's labourer, glass cutter, excavator, engraver, carpenter, gas fitter, sawyer, assistant at army clothing depôt, lighterman, basket maker, boot closer, coppersmith, gardener's boy, dentist's boy, cellar boy, milk can maker, marble mason, telegraph boy, old clothes dealer, stonemason, envelope stamper, brass finisher, envelope maker, coach builder, law writer, tailor, newspaper boy, turner, linendraper, map mounter, scale maker, and boot maker.

having passed through the institute between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, the average attendance being between forty and fifty, the subscription being fourpence a month, paid in advance. Classes for reading, writing, and arithmetic, geometry and freehand drawing and singing, were formed; also a Bible class; afterwards a drum and fife band, and this summer a swimming club was commenced. For all these classes prizes in money and books have been given at each anniversary by way of encouragement to persevere. Interesting illustrated lectures are frequently given, and they have the use of a good library. All educational requisites are supplied at half the cost price. No other refreshment has been required than that furnished by a large filter. This harmless "tap" is under large demand during the evening. The amusements consist of chess, which many of the boys have learned to play very well, draughts and solitaire, and geographical games; they also bring out a puzzle sheet; charades, enigmas, &c., are contributed by the members.* Each year, in April, the members of the singing class and drum and fife band have given an excellent musical entertainment, consisting of part songs, a service of song, and melodies. All the tickets issued were sold at threepence each, the amount being shared by those who took part in the concert, the result being a very interesting and interested audience. They were assisted by readings and addresses from Mr. George Cruikshank, Dr. Paterson, Mr. G. C. Campbell, and other friends. A marvellous improvement is visible both in appearance and behaviour. This was noticed at the last anniversary meeting by the late Canon Conway, who said that "he never felt more proud of the boys of Westminster than he did that night," and by Sir R. W. Carden, who remarked that he "had never seen a finer lot of boys in his life."

The manager of the institute should be a man of sufficient education to be looked up to as an authority by the lads, of sufficient firmness to carry out the rules strictly, and yet of sufficient *bonhomie* to join in the little amusements occasionally improvised, as cross readings, story-

* Specimens of Puzzle Sheet:—

A musical instrument if you behead
Another musical instrument you'll have instead (flute, lute).

I am a children's excursion into the country (treat);
Curtail and transpose, I am paid by householders (rate);
Once more curtailed, I am an animal (rat);
Transpose, and I am a familiar name for a sailor (tar).

Whole, in war time boldly take,
Beheaded you should never break (sword, word).

HIDDEN RIVERS.

There is a little sen*se in* every body (Seine).
I shall *miss our* interesting conversations (Missouri).
&c., &c., &c.

telling in a circle round a cheery fire, puzzles, &c. No disorder or unruly conduct must ever be permitted to pass unchecked; the offender is cautioned twice, and then expelled for a shorter or longer period, and he is warned that if expelled three times his name will be taken off the roll, and he will cease to be a member. Only eleven lads have proved to be incorrigible and have been thus expelled, the last case occurring in October, 1875.

May this effort have the prayerful remembrance of the friends of youth, looking as we must do to the rising generation to stem the torrent of intemperance and infidelity which threatens our land, that "when sinners entice them they consent not," but "may walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous," remembering that "the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it."

WORKING GIRLS' INSTITUTES.

Mrs. William Gray, in advocating the claims of girls for a fair share of care and culture, writes:—"The other day there was a great meeting at the Mansion House, for the purpose of founding institutions for giving to boys between thirteen and eighteen, working for their livelihood in the day time, places of instruction and wholesome amusement in the evening. Now, although the fact was passed over at that meeting, many such institutions for boys exist already in London, and are doing an excellent work. But why did no one suggest that similar institutions would be equally good for girls of the same age, thousands of whom are earning their bread like their brothers by their daily labour away from home, if they have any home—girls whose temptations are far more dangerous, and whose fall, if they do fall, is irretrievable? Noble efforts are made for women when they have fallen. Would it not be better to try and prevent them from falling—to bring them during the perilous passage from childhood to womanhood under the nightly influence of good and refined women, who would do for them what good and refined men are doing for their brothers, and surround them with that best of safeguards, the belief that they are cared for by those better and higher than themselves, to whom their well-doing will be a joy, their ill-doing a grief? If the interests of the poor girls themselves are not sufficiently worthy of consideration, let it be remembered that they are in the end inextricably bound up with those of the boys; for never shall we succeed in permanently and thoroughly improving the men of a class or nation, unless we raise the women to an equal level. Nature, in making women physically the weaker sex, gave them the superior force of attraction; and where the woman stands, be it high or low, thither in the end she draws the man."

A SUNDAY EVENING WITH THE RAGGED CHILDREN.

(*South London Press.*)

"WILL you kindly give an address to our Ragged Children on Sunday evening next? Pray come, if possible; we are much in want of teachers," was the invitation which I received from a hard-working secretary of a Ragged School in one of the most degraded parts of Southwark; and although I had the most painful memories of my first visit to that very identical school, I could not refuse the kind invitation. I remembered, however, that on the occasion of my previous visit, a brand-new *chapeau de soie* was mortally wounded by a stone thrown by a young urchin, who took this way of paying a grudge to the superintendent, who for many reasons would not allow him to enter the school; so I equipped myself in a soft felt, feeling all the pride and self-possession of a student at the Tabernacle College. The Sunday evening was warm, and the air stifling; and it was not with any anticipations of pure air that I made my way down the Borough, through Lant Street, to the Ragged School at Harrow Street, in the Mint. One could not help observing the large numbers of children that thronged the streets, making the most hideous noises, and playing their games as if they had no knowledge of the Sabbath day.

On arriving within sight of the school, I was loudly welcomed with cries of "Teacher," and many a little one begged to be allowed to come in; but I was powerless to grant their petition, for the school seemed already more than full, and each teacher had a class more crowded than was pleasant to teach. "We could admit more," said the superintendent; "but we are always short of teachers. If I had more earnest, devoted teachers, those little ones would not be outside pleading for admission."

The noise inside the school was hard to bear—the children in many instances seeming so regardless of the teacher, that without constant raising of the voice to a high pitch their attention could not be gained at all. And who are these children who are so eager to spend an hour away from home and friends? If you look into their faces they tell you of homes of poverty, want, and neglect, of parents who have but little love and respect for their children, and who habitually send them into the streets in order to be rid of them for a time.

The teachers' task is a trying one. They seem to labour without reward; they sow their seed, indeed, upon the waters, never to know the result till the final gathering of mankind. The most successful teachers seem to be ladies. They talk softly, and, with simple illustrations and questions, find their way into the hearts of the children.

There is one lady surrounded with some twenty rough-headed and many of them shoeless boys, but every one is fixed at her words. She talks like a mother, and no one could imagine her words thrown away.

The class teaching over, a bell was rung, and the children so seated that all might see the speaker at the desk. Then a hymn was sung. It was an old favourite—

"When mothers of Salem their children brought to Jesus."

If the children did not sing it sweetly, they sang it with all their hearts, and enjoyed it thoroughly, reminding one of old school days, when the simple hymns of the Sunday School had such a charm.

There are many who abstain from attending Ragged Schools, because they imagine that some extraordinary talent is required to obtain attention. This is a mistake: the ragged children are willing to listen if you have anything to say that they can understand, and if you say it in a manner that shows you mean it. Earnestness, simplicity, and an abundance of simple, homely illustrations are all that is required for an address to the ragged children, provided you add to it brevity, which, in addition to being the soul of wit, should be the soul of an address to children.

On the occasion when I visited this school and gave the children some homely advice on honesty, truth, and sobriety, the attention was most encouraging. Hardly a child was talking, and one could not help feeling it a good thing to gather the children together on the Sunday evening in this way. It may be asked, What is the result of the teaching in our Sunday evening Ragged Schools? The superintendent is constantly receiving letters from former scholars, who attribute their respectable position in society to the good influences and the loving friends they met at the Ragged School. For many of the children respectable situations are found, and good literature is placed in their hands. The annual rewards given by the Ragged School Union to those who keep their situations for twelve months prove that the teaching of the Ragged School has not been without good results.

Whatever may be said concerning the labours of the School Board for London when it clashes with work formerly done by the Ragged School Union, one thing is certain—it is a wise and good work to keep in a state of efficiency the Sunday Schools for ragged children. The Southwark Sunday School Society, which bears the chief expenses of several Ragged Schools in Southwark, cannot do better than establish more schools for the very poor, and nothing would encourage them to carry out this idea so much as a large addition of voluntary teachers to the schools.

GEORGE MOORE.

It is our painful duty to place on record the loss sustained by the Ragged School Union, in common with many other societies, in the lamentable and accidental death of Mr. George Moore, of Whitehall, Cumberland, and Bow Churchyard. For many years Mr. Moore was one of the Vice-Presidents of the Ragged School Union, and the Treasurer of the Field Lane Ragged Schools.

It appears that on Monday afternoon, Nov. 21, Mr. Moore was walking down English Street, Carlisle, having just parted from a friend, when a pair of young horses that had broken loose from a livery stable came galloping along the thoroughfare. One of the animals passed in the carriage way, but the other, swerving on to the flags, knocked the unfortunate gentleman down, and injured him mortally. When lifted up he was found to be quite insensible, and in this state he was carried to a neighbouring hotel. Sir William Gull was instantly summoned by telegraph, and on reaching Carlisle pronounced the case hopeless. Mr. Moore, in fact, died at half-past one o'clock, either from concussion of the brain or from internal injuries to the body caused by a broken rib.

The lamented gentleman was even better known, if that be possible, in Carlisle than in London, for he was a Cumberland man, and his gradual rise in life had been watched with pride and gratification by people of his district. He was born in 1807, at Mealsgate, where his ancestors had been yeomen, or, as they are called in the lake country, "statesmen," for many generations. At the age of eighteen George Moore entered the London house of Groucock, Copestake, and Co., which firm largely owes its subsequent fortunes to his indomitable energy, unflagging perseverance, and stainless character. Lace factories in Nottingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Paris, and New York, with branch establishments in many other places, were organised by Mr. George Moore, whose name was brought into the title of the firm many years ago. Pre-eminently is that name known in philanthropic annals and in the history of many social and popular movements. Among the many public charities which owe their existence or success to Mr. Moore may be named the Commercial Travellers' Orphan School, the Royal Hospital for Incurables, the British Home for Incurables, a

special branch of the Female Mission among Fallen Women, the Little Boys' Home, Christian Community, the Field Lane Ragged Schools, and the Ragged School Union. He has also for many years shared in conducting a noble experiment for the private reformation of thieves. On finding the neighbourhood of Somers Town in a very neglected and forlorn condition, six or seven years ago, he built a church and schools there; and while carrying on these good works in the great city where he had made his fortunes and his home, he ceaselessly worked for the benefit of his native county, rebuilding schools, finding proper masters for them, and adding liberally to the scanty livings of churches. In late years his mansion in Kensington Palace Gardens has been the rendezvous of beneficence, and his purse has been made available for charitable labour. Yet, while unremitting in his toil and devotion, where good of any kind was to be accomplished by personal sacrifice, he has shrunk from public life with a persistence very remarkable. When elected sheriff for the City of London in 1844 he cheerfully paid the fine of £500 to avoid serving in that office. He has twice refused the aldermanic gown; and, more than all, has repeatedly declined the solicitations of Liberal constituencies to enter Parliament. Once, as is well known, he was much pressed to accept a seat for the City of London; but he steadfastly rejected this, as well as every other overture of the kind. In other ways, however, he served the State as well as any member of Parliament could have done. He was, for instance, one of the leading members of the private committee appointed by Dr. Tait, then Bishop of London, for the purpose of getting the Bill for the union of City benefices made law; and he was also a commissioner from the same bishop, in 1861, to inquire into the fund raised by a clergyman at the East End for the relief of "Londoners over the Border." With Colonel Stuart Wortley, Mr. George Moore laboured in distributing the Paris Relief Fund subscribed by the City of London, and, by his admirable ability and firmness of purpose, did much to relieve the terrible distress then prevailing. Almost the only public office, however, that Mr. George Moore ever filled has been the post of High Sheriff for his native county, where his name is deservedly held in the highest estimation.

Mr. George Moore has been described by the *World* as A MODERN WHITTINGTON, and no better specimen of the "Whittington" ideal of the English self-made man could be found. His life was exactly that of the industrious apprentice. He used to tell how he first came to London without a friend or a sixpence, and, walking about the streets, entered a draper's shop to ask for employment. This was at first refused, but the owner was won by some answer, or something in the

bearing of the candidate, who, on the day of his engagement, set before himself two purposes to be worked out—to be head of the establishment and marry his master's daughter. In both of these aims he succeeded, and the house of Moore, Copestake, and Co. is now one of the most important wholesale "stores" in the kingdom.

THE FRUIT OF SEED SOWN.

Fox Court Ragged School.

The following are extracts from a letter received last August from a non-commissioned officer in India who was formerly for some years a scholar of Fox Court Ragged Schools. He writes:—

"I must tell you I am as happy as possible, and have had no cause to repent of my marriage. —— my wife is all that I could desire, and I am sure you would like her did you see her. As I told you, she is a Christian, plays the piano very nicely (I have one), and is not too proud to look after my dinner and see that the little room which I use as my studio is well dusted every morning.

"By the bye, this reminds me to tell you I have commenced to study Persian, and have, since the 1st of June, made so much progress as to be able to read ordinary narratives. I already have a good acquaintance with English, French, and Hindustani."

In a following letter he requests the teacher to whom it and the former were written to send him certain sets of books of a most solid and useful character, also a set of mathematical instruments, box of water colours, and sketch box.

Besides his regimental duties, the subject of this notice has been a school teacher and chaplain's clerk in his regiment, and had, two or three years since, saved about two hundred pounds. He is now probably far better off than then.

The Fox Court school-teacher from whom we have received the above particulars adds:

"I have known him and his family intimately for about twelve years or more. His father, old and extremely poor, and to whom this son has sent money, is, or was, a tailor's workman. The subject of this notice very soon attracted my special interest by his studious turn, good conduct, intelligence, method, and perseverance. Among the studies he then applied himself to were arithmetic, French, geography, and history. After some instruction in French from me, he joined a conversation class in that language, under a French master. Before leaving England he had formed a small library of

standard works—merely amusing reading I believe he did not care for. Since he arrived in India, about six years ago, I have had some very thoughtful and interesting descriptions from him about the state of society and customs of India, as they have come under his observation, worth publication, as I thought, in some London periodical. I had great pleasure, a few years ago, at seeing his name mentioned in an Indian newspaper as having passed an examination of a high character in the Hindustani language. His proficiency in such various branches of knowledge is due almost entirely to his own zealous effort. Some assistance in starting or furthering him in arithmetic, French, geography, and history has been given him at Fox Court Schools; but, considering his great acquirements, it seems a very little help. The sympathy and encouragement he has received in the direction of self-instruction have done perhaps more than mere teaching in helping him to fully develop his abilities and be what he now is, a benefit and credit to society, and that in the best respect, as he affirms himself to be a believing Christian, and attributes his conversion to a corporal in his regiment. He bore a high character in Fox Court Schools as a Sunday scholar."

RESCUE WORK IN MANCHESTER.

THE following letter from a Manchester superintendent, which appeared in the *Salford Weekly News*, is commended to the notice of our readers:—

"SIR,—The coldness and long nights of winter will no doubt remind many of our readers of those whose home-comforts and other surroundings are none of the best, and on whose behalf we would say a little. From a desire to benefit the more neglected and destitute classes in the community, especially children, the Ragged School and Mission connected with John Street Hall, Pendleton, near Manchester, has continued hard at work the present year. Over 400 of the 500 or so, registered scholars, may now be seen each Sunday night in the various class-rooms, or as taught from the desk, comfortably listening to the religious instruction given. A proportionate number also meet the same morning and afternoon, and Tuesday nights, for the like purpose. Secular instruction is also given on two week evenings, and the girls also taught sewing on another night. The poor parents, &c., have nicely filled the large Assembly Hall on Sunday evenings; a good number also attending on Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evenings, evidently enjoying the gospel addresses given by ministers of various denominations and laymen. These measures for the children and

adults have been carried out weekly, summer as winter, and it is clear, with the other operations, must have been useful directly or indirectly on those who have thus been brought together, on their homes and the neighbourhood generally. We have long endeavoured to teach all to 'help themselves,' and share in the labour and cost of the work. It is worthy of note that about £5 has been the average amount deposited per week in the Penny Bank, and actually in the last eleven months about 18,000 useful periodicals—mostly penny—have been sold to the scholars, the ordinary members, and cottagers generally, nearly all the numbers being taken to their homes. The offertory box receives several shillings each Sunday from those who attend the meetings, say from 4s. 6d. to 6s., a certain proportion going to the relief of the sick, who, and the poor people generally, have been attended to by our female missionary and others. Temperance has been inculcated at our Band of Hope meetings, and besides the above a large number of open-air meetings have been held, also from two to five cottage meetings per week; and during the year there has been held at the hall 31 Mothers' Meetings, 45 Bible Readings, 85 Gospel Meetings (averaging 110 in attendance nightly), 121 Prayer Meetings, and occasional useful Entertainments, with an attendance of from 250 to 500. For some time, till the smallpox interfered, three or so loan tracts under each cover were taken weekly to about 1,600 houses, and no fewer than 160,000 tracts and slips with Scripture texts have since last January been given away. We know of a fair number who were attracted out of the world by the instrumentality of our meetings, &c., who during the year have become useful members at several churches in the neighbourhood. Frequently the attendances at the hall of young and old has numbered 1,090 on the Sunday, and nearly 800 on week evenings, and during several weeks of extra services this number was doubled, and which does not include the cottage and outside meetings. A Cricket Club for youths, Recreation Rooms for boys and girls, a Loan Library, Summer Excursions, Whit-week and Christmas Treats, &c., might also be referred to amongst the features; but what we now ask is, Will the intelligent and Christian public show a little sympathy, and extend that help which will enable the work to proceed? It has been a necessity to construct a new infants' room to accommodate the 250 or so little ones who now assemble in it several times a week, and which, with other improvements, cost £150, requiring to be covered. Volunteers to help as teachers or monitors in the Ragged School will be most acceptable; also gifts of tracts, books, and cast-off clothing for the needy. We should like this Christmas to give either a substantial breakfast or tea, but cannot touch the general funds for the purpose. For the liberal annual subscriptions which a number of

friends send we are very much obliged, and if a few more will kindly intimate early their intention to contribute, we shall feel encouraged to prosecute the work to the fullest extent possible. On behalf of the committee and working staff,

"JOHN SUGDEN, *Hon. Superintendent.*

"John Street, Pendleton, *Nov.* 23, 1876."

Friends willing to contribute will please remit to Mr. John Sugden, 46, Market Street, Manchester.

COVENTRY RAGGED SCHOOL.

THE Ragged School friends at Coventry, under date of September 30, 1876, state:—

"It is sometimes said that Ragged Schools have had their day—that the work for which they were originated is now being accomplished by the schools brought into existence by the School Board system. This, in some degree, is true, but not entirely so. School Boards, exercising their compulsory powers, have forced children to attend school who otherwise would not have been in attendance; but there is one thing lacking in the system which Ragged Schools supply to the poorest and most neglected children,—that is, Religious Education and Training. There is a class of children in all large cities and towns that the usual Sunday Schools even do not touch; the offspring of parents who often care little, or, if they do care, are incapable of giving their children that loving Christian teaching and oversight which the teachers of Ragged Schools delight to fulfil. Board Schools may and do teach boys and girls to read, write, and sum; but they fail to apply that personal and pointed application of religious truth which every true-hearted Christian worker in Ragged Schools makes his or her especial work. The Board Schools have to some extent lightened the Ragged School teachers' work by saving them much of the arduous labour of secular instruction; but there is one thing which Board Schools do not profess to perform and which Ragged Schools try to do,—that is, to visit these poor children in sickness, to help them in distress and advise them in difficulty. In addition to this, there is a large number of young men who are very illiterate and who are too old to go to school: these we are trying to deal with in our Sunday and Night Schools. Thus it will be seen that there is still a work for Ragged Schools to do.

VAN METER'S WORK IN ROME.

THE following letter is from our friend Van Meter in Rome:—

"MY DEAR FRIEND,—Now that the second month since my return to Rome has passed I send you a brief report of it. What a month it has been—the happiest one I have known in Italy! The interest among my teachers and pupils has grown into enthusiasm, their unaffected sympathy, affectionate harmony, and earnest co-operation inspire me with hope and courage.

"The coming before the hour of opening, and the lingering after the close, tell us that our schools are the happiest places known to teachers and pupils.

"The progress in the various branches is encouraging, and specially so in their Bible studies. During the month in one school we have gone carefully through the Gospel of John. In our review the past two days there was scarcely a miracle, parable, or important incident that had escaped their notice, and could not be related by some of them. In addition to this we have our regular Sunday School lesson. Daily many of the pupils select and commit to memory a verse which is recited before the prayer. Several are voluntarily committing to memory the Sermon on the Mount.

"During the month I have taught them, 'I am coming, Lord, to Thee,' 'Lean, my child, on me,' 'Ninety and Nine,' 'Knocking, knocking, who stands there?' 'I love to tell the Story.' In one school these songs are also taught in English. The girls are progressing well with their needle and other work.

"The interest in the Night School for men is to me wonderful. These men are ignorant, poor, and work very hard, earning from eighteenpence to two shillings per day. But they come five nights in the week and spend much of the time reading the Scriptures and talking upon them. Every Wednesday evening the time is occupied in singing and short evangelical addresses. The order is good and the attention inspiring. The Missionary has not been rudely treated in a single instance during the month.

"It is refreshing to again meet Christians of all denominations and from various countries in our Union Conferences on Sunday evenings.

"Rome is unusually healthy and the weather charming. The pastors are at their posts, and the outlook for the winter is hopeful.

"Pray that 'showers of blessing' may descend upon us this winter. Do try to be with us during the 'week of prayer.'

"No. 12, Vicolo d'Alibert, Rome, *Nov.* 28, 1876."

PLANS AND PROGRESS.

KING EDWARD STREET.

Night Schools.

It being known to the friends of these Schools that a large number of boys and girls living in the neighbourhood between the ages of thirteen and eighteen had never attended a day school, they resolved to make a special effort to benefit them by devoting several evenings a week to their instruction. The experience gained by thirty years' labour leads to the conclusion that to teach these young people well, eight to ten boys or girls are about as many as any one teacher ought to have. The present staff of teachers carry on the Sunday Evening School—nearly four hundred children, the Library, Penny Bank, Benevolent Society, House-to-House Visitation, Distribution of Tracts and Magazines, and Band of Hope. Yet some of them volunteered to help in the Evening School. But these were not enough to carry on the school to the satisfaction of the superintendents and advantage of the children. It was therefore determined to hold a conference, and invite friends from the different places of worship in the neighbourhood. About forty responded to the invitations. In the absence of Mr. H. R. Williams (through illness) the chair was taken by the Rev. William Tyler. Prayer was offered, a hymn sung, and the Chairman called upon Mr. Montague to explain the object of the conference. He did so, and in the course of his remarks made an earnest appeal to the Christian men and women present to give at least one evening a week to instruct those poor neglected boys and girls who had been sent out to work at an age when they ought to have been at school, and unless they were taken in hand *at once* would grow up in ignorance.

The Rev. Mr. Marks, Rev. Wm. Tyler, Mr. Curtis, and others, addressed the meeting, and as a result of the conference eighteen friends volunteered to become teachers. It was resolved that the school should be opened forthwith for boys, girls, and young men, no one to be admitted under thirteen years of age. A friend kindly promised to print some bills at his own cost.

The first night of opening, 26 girls, boys, and young men applied for admission. A well-lighted room, a good fire, and a warm reception by kind friends, had its effect. On the second night there were 43, on the third 70, on the fourth 77, and on the fifth night 81. Thus it has gone on steadily increasing.

Sick Visitation and Help.

These schools have done a most useful work in the neighbourhood during the past thirty years. True to its character as a centre of benevolent effort, which is held to be the true work of every Ragged

School, when the cholera made its dread approach, immediate arrangements were made for administering relief by house-to-house visitation, the means being principally supplied by the Mansion House fund. 342 houses containing 1,100 families were visited constantly; during the whole time of the visitation in this number, 340 cholera cases occurred (8 in one house), resulting in 53 deaths. To these families were distributed, 1,149 lbs. of meat, 693 lbs. of rice, 628 lbs. of potatoes, 414 loaves of bread, 23 gallons of beef-tea, 21 gallons of port wine, 7½ gallons of brandy, 56 lbs. of arrowroot, 65 lbs. of sugar, 310 yards of flannel, 265 yards of calico, 58 blankets, 2 sets of bedding, 70 pairs of boots, about 250 garments, and about £42 in cash, besides good substantial meals to the weakly and the convalescent in the schools, to about 1,000 children and 40 adults.

Exhibition of Scholars' Work.

To encourage the boys and girls to spend their leisure time profitably, there is an Annual Exhibition of Scholars' Work. This exhibition was held for two days last May, and consisted of articles made during the winter by the scholars. The schoolroom was tastefully decorated with flowers, flags, &c. A large number of persons attended the exhibition, all of whom were admitted free, by ticket.

Among the articles exhibited by the boys was a ladies' mahogany easy-chair, covered with leather; a parlour chair, some well-made boots, a fern case made of zinc, a number of boxes, a model village in glass case, a model of a church, and a picture-frame inlaid with 1,128 pieces of coloured wood.

The girls decidedly made the best display of work; there were 76 contributors. In the plain needlework there was a marked improvement upon former years. A group of large dolls, dressed as servants, by the girls of the Sewing Class, were much admired for their neatness. A number of useful articles, both in wool and cotton, were very creditably made; among them was an antimacassar with 88 wheels, another with 40 raised flowers, and one with 60 flowers; a cushion made of 674 pieces of silk; some specimens of darning, knitting, tailoring, trimming, parasol and brush making."

The girls of the Industrial School also contributed a number of articles; their darning and plain needlework were very good.

A number of interesting objects from China, South Australia, and Switzerland, were lent by friends of the school.

At the close of the exhibition the distribution of prizes to the children took place. This, to the children, was, perhaps, the most attractive part of the proceedings. The prizes were given for regular attendance at the Sunday School, and also for work exhibited at the

exhibition in the King Edward Street Schools, the girls being rewarded for plain needlework, knitting, darning, &c., and the boys for model-making, specimens of cabinet work, and other articles.

Country Holiday.

A day in the country is given for good conduct and regular attendance. The plan adopted is to give, about March, a card with the Sundays printed on it from March to August. The scholar has to bring this every week for the teacher to sign, and when the excursion tickets are distributed the cards are examined. Last year 463 children and their friends were taken for a day on the forest out of a fund raised for the purpose.

Servants in Place taking Prizes.

It is pleasing to note that out of the number of boys and girls sent to situations during the last three years, no less than seventy-two have taken prizes given by the Committee of the Ragged School Union for having retained their situations for twelve months and upwards with satisfaction to their employers.

Ragged School Union.

Meetings of Committee during the last quarter were held on—

Monday, October 9,
Friday, ,, 13,
Monday, November 6,
Friday, ,, 10,
Monday, December 4,
Friday, ,, 8.

Conference Meetings were held on—

Wednesday, October 11,
Monday, ,, 16,
Wednesday, ,, 18.

Subscriptions and Donations received during the three months amounted to	£179	7	3
Legacies	900	0	0
Sale of Consols and Dividends	840	19	4
Sales and other sums	127	4	4
The grants and other payments during the same period amounted to	882	6	8

Applications for aid were received from—

Poplar,	Holloway,	Golden Lane,
Waterloo Road,	Bromley,	King Edward Street,
Gray's Yard,	Tottenham Square,	Love Lane,

Gravesend,	Ratcliff,	Motley Street,
Stoke Newington,	Buross Street,	Charles Square,
Snowsfields,	London Street,	Homerton,
Chequer Alley,	Chatham Gardens,	Old Castle Street,
Nichol Street,	Kingsland,	Lower Park Road,
Spicer Street,	Clerkenwell Close,	Beaumont Place,
Camden Town,	Clapham,	Charterhouse Street.
West Greenwich,		

Grants in aid, after visitation and report, have been voted to *twenty-seven* of the foregoing schools, and the remainder are under consideration.

A letter was read at the December meeting from Mr. Locke, complaining of an article entitled "The Dawn of Ragged Schools," that appeared in our number for last January. After the reading of the letter it was agreed to recommend the editor to insert extracts from it in the next number, with any editorial note appended that he may think needful.

Mr. Locke writes:—

"* * * * I have to complain of an article that appeared in your *Quarterly Record* of January last, entitled 'Dawn of Ragged Schools.'

"* * * * What I particularly complain of is this—that the early promoters and friends of your Union are slighted and ignored, especially Mr. S. R. Starey, who was, in fact, the originator of the Society, and that the formation of the Union is all made to hinge upon a letter that was not written till the Union had been in operation for above six months!—that no mention is made of the meeting that was held to form the Society, or of those friends who first set it on foot. If you will just turn to the paper referred to, at page 6, you will see this more clearly. It there states that steps were taken to form a Union, but instead of going on to tell of the meeting that was held in April, 1844, to establish the Society, your editor says all eyes were turned to Lord Ashley, and a letter is quoted from his lordship, dated November, 1844, as if it formed the basis or initiative of the Society, whereas that letter was addressed to me as hon. secretary of the already established Union, and was in reply to a request that his lordship should become our president, though it does not so appear in this paper. Again, it states that this letter led to the formation of a committee, &c., whereas that committee was formed and money received and grants made many months before!

"Again, this article states that the first public meeting was held in June, 1845, whereas that was the first anniversary of the Society, fourteen months after it was established. * * * *

"Your obedient servant,

"Wm. Locke."

The Editor replies:—

Before a single word of the article complained of was written, the editor pressed Mr. Locke to write it, and afterwards saw Mr. Starey with the same object in view, but both gentlemen declined. There could, therefore, be no intention to ignore either of them. The subject of the article is not, as appears to be assumed by Mr. Locke, the formation of the Ragged School Union, but the great events that took place prior to and led up to it. This is clearly indicated by the title, "*Dawn* of Ragged Schools," but to make the order of events clear as to date it is stated in the tenth line from the commencement of the article that the formation of the Ragged School Union took place in the *spring* of 1844, and the date of Lord Ashley's letter is given, namely, *November*, 1844. According to these dates six months' existence is given to the Society before the letter referred to was written. The second paragraph of page 5, and the one following, are devoted to the efforts of friends during those six months.

It was needful to give the date of the formation of the Society in order to fix upon the period for "The *Dawn* of Ragged Schools." The first line of the second paragraph gives the year 1843.as *the dawn*. The great educational events of this year form the subject of the article.

Those events were treated of in the following order, viz.:—

1st. In relation to the report on the state of education of prisoners.

2nd. In relation to the charge of the Bishop of Winchester on education.

3rd. In relation to the Factory Education Bill of Sir James Graham, and consequent agitation on the subject.

4th. In relation to the great speech of Lord Ashley in the House of Commons on the moral and religious education of the working classes.

5th. In relation to the National School Society, and the Queen's letter to extend education.

6th. In relation to the efforts of the Wesleyans to extend education.

7th. Ditto by the Congregationalists.

8th. Ditto by the General Assembly of Scotland.

Having more or less dwelt on these points, the paper finishes by a general reference to an effort to establish special schools for the most neglected of the population, and then closes with an extract from a speech of the Duke of Argyll on the value of such schools, and to express surprise that they had been so long delayed.

The reference to the formation of the Ragged School Union, while not foreign to the general subject of the article, was only incidental

and ancillary to it. To give secondary details to an ancillary portion of a paper would have had the effect of lessening the importance of what was cardinal to it, by overweighting it with detail that was merely ordinal. Therefore, in the judgment of the writer, such details, in such a part of the paper, were not only not needed, but undesirable. Under other circumstances such details would not only be desirable but essential. Nevertheless, had the writer of the article had the least idea that it would have been such a source of gratification to Mr. Locke to insert his name it would certainly have appeared, although it would have subjected the writer to the taunt of invidiousness by naming one when others so well deserved honourable mention.

Mr. Locke's statements and the Society's records do not, however, agree. Mr. Locke asserts, "Again it (the article) states that this letter (Lord Ashley's) led to the formation of a committee, &c., '*whereas that committee was formed and money received and grants made many months before.*' "

The committee appointed at the first public meeting of the new Society, held June 10th, 1845, had been previously agreed upon at "*a meeting of teachers,*" held November 1st, 1844, the minutes of which are signed by Robert Kennedy. This choice was confirmed at a special meeting of the Managing Committee on November 15th, 1844, the minutes of which are signed by J. G. Gent. Not one penny had the Society received up to this date, November 15th, 1844, nor had the Committee paid a single penny for anything; at least, there is no record in the Society's books of any receipts or payments. The first cash-book shows that the first contribution was received in December, 1844, and the first grant paid away was voted at a meeting held April 4th, 1845, Mr. Gent in the chair, and this grant appears to have been paid on May 2nd, 1845.

There is no doubt the Society had a form of existence for six months before November, 1844, but that existence was more of embryo than complete organisation, and it was not fairly and usefully at work till after Lord Ashley's adhesion. The writer of the article was therefore correct in the conclusion "that personal influence was wanted, as well as earnest men and a good cause, to launch it (the Ragged School Union) successfully."

When the origin, the history, and the results of the great Ragged School movement come to be written for the jubilee of the Ragged School Union, to be published in April, 1894, full justice will doubtless be done to the memory and the labours of those who set the ball rolling, as well as, to change the figure, to those who bore the burden and heat of the day.

EDITOR, J. G. G.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

This Society has a remarkable history. For many years it was stated to have originated in 1772, but it is now very clear that it then only underwent a reorganisation under the supervision of the late Rev. John Wesley, who evidently took it under his patronage, and infused new life into it, whereby it has held on its way with increasing usefulness up to this time. Its real origin was in the previous century, about the time of the Revocation of the notorious Edict of Nantes, when so many Christians were driven into this country by the rigorous persecution of that time, and who were filled with the love of Christ, and banded themselves together for the purpose of spreading the gospel, which was then at its lowest ebb in this country, and when infidelity, profligacy, and general vice were rampant. The name "Communauté" is well known to be Continental, and seems to have been the simple designation they assumed in their organised efforts to reach the ungodly masses around them. Thus is the peculiar name "Community," which puzzles so many people, accounted for, and a connection between them and the present generation established.

Having such an ancestry in these noble and self-sacrificing refugees, several of whose descendants are now in connection with it, the members have reason to be emulous to walk in the footsteps of such Christian heroes, and to imitate their virtues.

The following list of the different agencies employed will show the economical principles of the Society.

Members, belonging to every denomination, 140.

Seven Workhouses, where 140 wards are visited weekly, in which 5,000 sick and infirm people are located.

Forty Lodging Houses are under visitation, with 2,000 lodgers of the lowest class.

Open-Air Stations, fourteen, during the summer.

Mission Halls, three, where the following agencies are employed, viz.:

Preaching, Prayer Meetings, Mothers' Meetings, Bible Classes, Bands of Hope, Temperance Meetings, three Sabbath Schools, Week-night Schools, Ragged Schools, Children's Religious Services, Sick Visitation, Free Breakfast Meetings during the winter, Free Tea Meetings, Excursions, Lectures, Young Men's Meetings, Young Women's Meetings, Reading Room, open every week night, Penny Bank, Coal Club, Tract Distribution, Conferences of Workers, &c., &c.

Donations for this special work will be gratefully received by the Secretary, Mr. James Atkinson, 10, Enfield Road, South Kingsland, London, N.

BOOKS, AND WHAT IS THOUGHT OF THEM.

CHRISTIE'S OLD ORGAN; OR, "HOME, SWEET HOME." Illustrated. *Religious Tract Society.*

Those who have read "My Mates and I" will, when they are told that "Christie's Old Organ" is by the same pen, be prepared to give the new volume a warm reception. Christie is a motherless, ragged boy, who has to find a home in a common lodging-house, where he makes the acquaintance of one of the inmates, "an organ-grinder." One of the four tunes of which the instrument could boast was "Home, Sweet Home," a tune Christie's mother sang on her death-bed, and then said to the lad, soon to be alone in the world, "I'm going home, Christie—going home—home, sweet home; I'm going home, Christie." Though Christie at the time knew nothing of the "city bright," which she called "home," yet a chain of providential circumstances, every link of which is strong with loving incidents, leads the ragged lad along till he receives the truth as in Jesus at the mission room, is the means of bringing the old organ-grinder to the feet of the Saviour, and by the aid of a stranger is rescued from the street, sent to school for a time, and ultimately becomes the useful Scripture-reader. The link that led to this grand result is a letter, of which we give a copy, addressed to the clergyman who officiated at the mission room attended by Christie.

"My dear Mr. Wilton,—There is a poor boy of the name of Christie (what his surname is I do not know) living in a lodging-house in Ivy Court, Percy Street. He lived formerly with an old organ-grinder, but I believe the old man was thought to be dying some weeks ago. My dear wife took a great fancy to the boy, and my little Mabel frequently talks of him. I imagine he must be left in a very destitute condition, and I should be much obliged if you could find him out and provide for him some comfortable home with any respectable person who will act as a mother to him.

"I enclose a cheque which will pay his expenses for the present. I should like him to go to school for a year or two, and then I intend, if the boy desires to serve Christ, to bring him up to work as a Scripture-reader amongst the lowest of the people in your neighbourhood.

"I think I could not perpetuate my dear wife's memory in any better way than by carrying out what I know were her wishes with regard to little Christie. No money or pains will I spare to do for him what she herself would have done had her life been spared.

"Kindly excuse me for troubling you with this matter, but I do not wish to defer it until our return, lest I lose sight of the boy. The dismal attic where Christie and his old mother lived was the last place my dear wife visited before her illness, and I feel that the charge of this boy is a sacred duty which I must perform for her dear sake, and also for the sake of Him who has said, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.'—Believe me, dear Mr. Wilton, yours very sincerely, GERALD LINDESAY."

One charm of the book is the plain, straightforward, and telling method

of a present salvation by a full acceptance by faith in Christ. Under this method the doubts of the old organ grinder-broke down, and he realised acceptance and peace. The book would be of service to all Scripture-readers, city missionaries, and Ragged School teachers.

HYMNS OF CONSECRATION AND FAITH. Compiled and arranged by the Rev. J. Mountain. *Houghton and Co.*, 10, Paternoster Row.

These Hymn-books have been specially prepared for use at Consecration Meetings, Christian Conferences, Prayer and Praise Meetings, and Mission Services, and well adapted are they for use at such gatherings. There are two editions of the words only—small type for one penny, and large type at fourpence. Copies can be had of each edition in three different bindings. There is a third edition of great worth and merit, which to superintendents of schools and conductors of mission services will prove invaluable, as the music is given to each hymn. There are 486 hymns and 340 tunes in four parts, well printed on good paper for one shilling in paper covers, eighteenpence in cloth limp, red edges; or two shillings in extra cloth boards. This selection of hymns and tunes reflects the greatest credit for judgment and taste on the compilers, to whom the Christian public owe a debt of lasting gratitude. We speak of this work as a compilation, but some of the tunes and words are original, and written expressly for this work, and we could not help noticing the frequency of the compiler's name as the author of some of the hymns and of many—perhaps as many as one-fourth—of the tunes. The hymns are classified according to the subject into twelve sets—viz., Longings for Holiness, Consecration, Faith, the Fulness of the Holy Spirit, the Overcoming Life, Union with Christ, Work, Prayer and Praise, the Second Advent, and General Hymns.

Notices of Meetings.

BARKING RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of this institution was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, on Wednesday evening, November 8th, when there was a fair attendance of friends interested in the work, the chair being occupied by Rev. J. Locke, circuit minister. A hymn having been sung, Rev. W. J. Tomkins (Baptist) offered prayer, and the chairman, after a few appropriate preliminary remarks, called upon Mr. W. Bewers, the superintendent of the school, who gave some interesting information as to the work of the past year, made the satisfactory statement that the cause was free from debt, and concluded by an earnest appeal for additional personal assistance in order that the effort might be still further extended among the many neglected children in the town. Resolutions of sympathy with the endeavour were moved and supported by Mr. D. H. Fry, of Plashet, in an earnest address; by Mr. J. H. Buckingham, of

the Ragged School Union Committee, who, in a powerful and eloquent speech, advocated and enforced the appeal made for fresh teachers; and by Dr. Barnardo, whose address dealt with some particulars of his own work among the street Arabs of London, and was listened to with the most intense interest, especially while he described a case, proving the usefulness in religious training of the Barking Ragged School, which had come under his immediate attention in the Home for Destitute Boys at Stepney. Mr. R. J. Curtis spoke of the urgent need for Christian workers in the various departments of religious service, and was followed by Rev. J. Smedmore (Congregationalist) and Rev. W. J. Tomkins, both of whom expressed their hearty sympathy in the work of the Ragged School. A collection was made in aid of the funds, and the usual votes of thanks to chairman and speakers brought the very interesting meeting to a close.

GRAVESEND RAGGED SCHOOL.

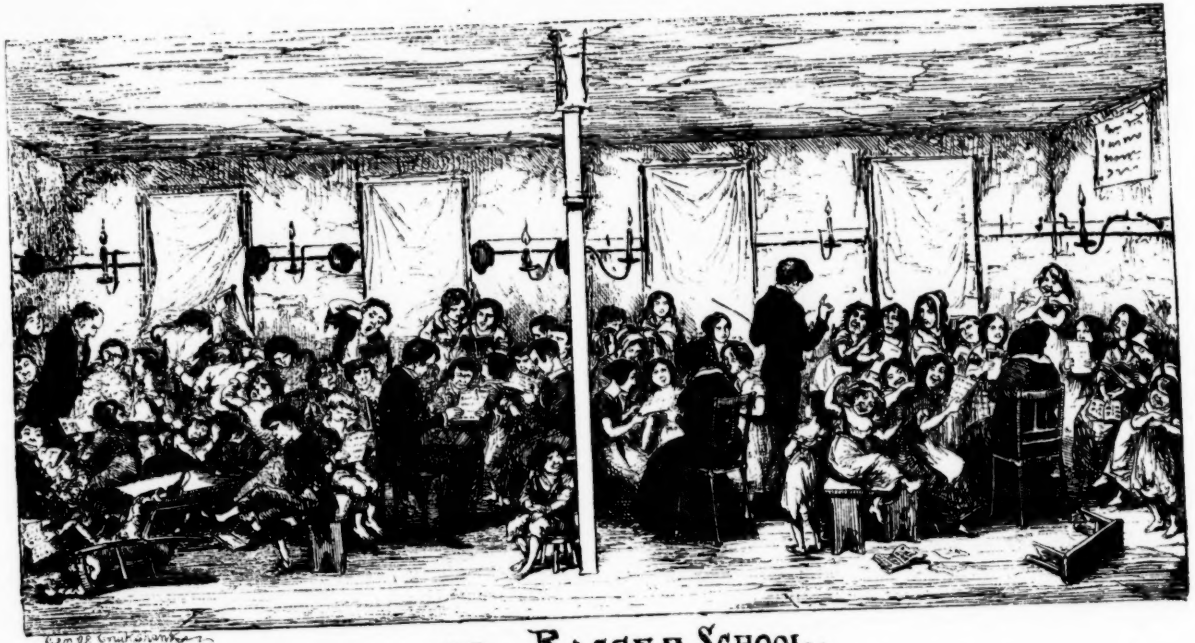
The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Gravesend Ragged School was held at the Assembly Rooms, Harmer Street, on November 28. His Worship the Mayor, J. Russell, Esq., occupied the chair. The Secretary read the report, which showed that at their last annual meeting a school board had just been formed in the town, but nothing had been done for compelling education; but since then the compulsory powers had been put in force, which had caused the Day School to be more regularly and effectually attended; and it was now thought unnecessary to continue the Day School on the same footing as before; but they still had a work, and that was to care for the young. They had 100 children who might be termed infants, who belonged to widows and others who were compelled to go out to earn a living, and leave the little ones in the care of other children, or perhaps, worse still, utterly neglected. The committee had decided to continue the Day School for infants under the school board age. In addition to that, the committee had established a Night School for lads and girls over school board age. Although that institution was called a Ragged School it had other purposes. There were a Sunday School, Sewing Classes, Bible Mission, Penny Bank, Soup Kitchen, Dinner for the Poor, &c., and therefore they asked for a continuance of that help which had always been so cordially given. The Sunday School was carred on by the voluntary teachers of all denominations, the Bible being the only text-book. During the winter the average attendance had been 101 in the afternoon, and 158 in the evening. In the Day School the numbers were lower than usual. When the School Board came into existence, the parents seemed to expect something else, and they kept back their children, and when inquiries were made the teachers were met with such answers as "They have had no breakfast, so can't come, and when you feed and clothe our children then they shall come." Some of the parents seemed to think that a board school implied a boarding school; and the children stayed away until the School Board officer went and undeceived them. Then a large number of ignorant boys, who had been at the school some time or other, filled the school, but in justice to the other children the committee felt compelled to refuse

them. Many of the children were much improved in cleanliness and appearance, and the highest attendance during the year had been 152, and the average for the year 101. A Sewing Class for girls was held each week, when work was done, and suitable pieces from books were read. Fifty meetings had been held, at which 424 articles had been made, and £38 16s. 4d. paid for the same in weekly pence. In connection with these meetings £20 8s. had been paid by members for periodicals, £6 11s. 5d. into the Coal Club, £5 18s. 1d. for blankets. Three hours each day had been devoted by the Bible woman to reading the Scriptures, and during the year 2,456 visits had been made, and portions of the Bible read 2,119 times. Forty-eight articles of children's clothing had been given away in connection with the Windmill Street Chapel Sunday School Sewing Class. £2 8s. had been expended from the funds in necessary food for the sick poor. Several of their scholars attended Exeter Hall, and received prizes from the hands of Lord Shaftesbury, for keeping their situations for twelve months. The Penny Bank became more useful every year, especially to the very poor. There had been 7,398 depositors. The Coal Club had been in existence four years, and during the past twelve months £13 6s. 8d. had been paid in by the members. The public Soup Kitchen was also a great boon to those who by stress of weather or otherwise were temporarily thrown out of work during the winter. 2,348 dinners had been given to the school children, who otherwise would have gone without. The report concluded by stating that the committee felt there was need still to go on, and called for that help which had been so generously given. The balance sheet showed the expenditure to have been £185, leaving a debt of £36.

HAMILTON PLACE.

The friends of this school, under the leadership of Mr. Neckie and Miss Sumner, held a bazaar on Dec. 5, 6, 7, and 8, for the purpose of raising funds to meet certain ordinary and extraordinary items of expenditure. With the exception of what was contributed by Mr. Gent, of the Ragged School Union, the stalls were furnished by the teachers themselves. The bazaar was opened by the Rev. S. D. Stubbs, vicar of St. James's, Pentonville, and the Revs. J. Morgan, J. Jones, and C. Chandler, took part in the proceedings. The alterations and enlargements of the schoolroom from time to time have been principally done by the teachers, or under their control, which has greatly reduced the cost of some important works.

Thirty pounds nett was realised by this sale. Over two hundred children are gathered in the school every Sunday night, and so zealous, so united, and so capable are the teachers, that, were the room big enough, they would easily double this number. There is a strong necessity for enlargement—only funds are needed. Any contributions for this worthy object will be received by Mr. J. G. Gent, at Exeter Hall, Strand, or Mr. Neckie, 34, Barnsbury Road, N.



The RAGGED SCHOOL.

In West Street (late Chick Lane) Smithfield